



BOLTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Paul K. Smith, Superintendent

March 18, 2011

Testimony/Letter in support of HB 6599: An Act Concerning Discrimination

To the Judiciary Committee,

My purpose in forwarding you this letter is to convince you that our public schools are indeed prepared to support the rights of all individuals in our schools and communities, whether those individuals are staff members, students, or citizens. I am urging your committee to support the addition of gender identity and gender expression to our state non-discrimination law.

The Bolton Public Schools last year published a document titled *Bolton 2020 Vision*. The cornerstone of this project, which was developed by teachers, parents, students, and community members, was a sincere and dedicated commitment to our students to collaborate to encourage learners to become ethical citizens who are innovative, influential leaders in their world. There is no possible way for us to support our students' ethical development if we are willing to omit any section of our population from protection against discrimination.

I urge you to support and pass HB 6599 as written and protect all members of our society, whether they are teachers or community members. As an educator I am well aware that our actions speak very loudly to our students. Your actions on this matter are a voice that will be heard. Please make it a voice that speaks for non-discrimination.

Sincerely,

Paul K. Smith

Paul K. Smith
Superintendent of Schools